**Places to Visit in RE Syllabuses**

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**Places of Worship**

RE syllabuses have traditionally included places of worship as the physical centres for a range of religions. They have also encouraged schools to arrange visits to local ones such as churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and gurdwaras.

It is undoubtedly valuable for pupils to be taken to such places, to meet adherents of the faith, learn about the significance of the building and the activities that are housed there.

However, now that syllabuses are increasingly requiring RE to include non-religious world views, such as Humanism, this approach is limiting and not inclusive of these sources of beliefs and values. Although they do often hold regular events, they do not have their own buildings.

An alternative would be for syllabuses to refer to Places to Visit or Significant Buildings.

**Significant Buildings**

This title would, of course, include places of worship but would also include the many community, social and cultural buildings that are important to us all and are clearly supportive of the main Humanist beliefs and values. Using our summary of these beliefs and values, from our series of posters available on our website, (<https://www.northeast-humanists.org.uk/education.html>) here are a few examples of significant secular buildings that could be visited.

**Being kind, Showing respect, Upholding rights**

* Social and community centres
* City and town halls
* Law courts
* Citizens Advice Offices
* Local charities

**Asking questions**, **Using evidence, Testing theories**

* Libraries and bookshops
* Museums
* Astronomical observatories
* Universities

**Finding happiness, Having a good life, Feeling fulfilled**

* Leisure and sport centres
* Art galleries
* Music venues
* Theatres and cinemas
* Local charities

Visits to some of these places could well provide good educational experiences, especially if there was someone available to explain what they offer and how they work. Teachers can then explain how they contribute to the main Humanist beliefs and values. In fact, schools may well already include visits of this kind in a different context. So links could easily be made to their significance to us all and in particular to non-religious people, such as Humanists. Certainly, they should be included in connection with places of worship as examples of other significant buildings and places to visit that are an important part of our community.